



SYLVIA R. GARCIA

HOUSTON CITY CONTROLLER

Houston City Controller Sylvia R. Garcia is a native of the South Texas farming community of Palito Blanco. She attended Texas Woman's University on a scholarship, graduating with a degree in social work, and received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. The eighth of 10 children, she learned at an early age the value of education and hard work. She also learned to be frugal with a dollar; a lesson which serves her well in the Office of the Controller.

Controller Garcia was sworn in on January 2, 1998 as Controller for the City of Houston. She is the second-highest City elected official and serves as the City's Chief Financial Officer. Prior to her election in November 1997, Controller Garcia served as the appointed Director and Presiding Judge of the Houston Municipal Court System. As Presiding Judge, she was responsible for a multi-million-dollar budget, coordinated a staff of 50 judges, and established the operation and administration policies of the courts. She enjoys the distinction of having served for an unprecedented five terms under two mayors. Controller Garcia believes that maintaining the City's fiscal soundness is serious business and is committed to ensuring that City government operates cost-effectively.

Before joining the City, Controller Garcia worked as an attorney for the Gulf Coast Legal Foundation and served on the City's first Appraisal Review Board. She also served as administrative law judge for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and headed her own law firm.

Active in the Houston community, the Controller has served on more than 25 community boards and commissions, including the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, the Houston Hispanic Forum, the American Leadership Forum, the Texas Southern University Foundation and the Institute of Hispanic Culture. During the past year both community leaders and the media have honored Controller Garcia. She was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Conference of Communities and Justice and chosen as one of "Houston's 25 Power People" by Inside Houston magazine. The Houston Press also named her "Politician of the Year."